

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please replace Figures 18 and 19 (drawing sheets 18/19 and 19/19) with the Replacement Sheet 18/19 and Replacement Sheet 19/19 submitted herewith, in which the associated figures have been labeled with the legend "PRIOR ART".

REMARKS

Claims 1-40 are pending in the present application.

Figures 18 and 19 have been objected to for not being designated with a legend such as "PRIOR ART". In response, Applicants have submitted herewith formal replacement sheets 18/19 and 19/19 in which Figures 18 and 19 have been modified to include the legend "PRIOR ART".

Claims 1-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by USPN 6,418,324 (Doviak et al.). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection as follows. Independent claims 1, 11, 21 and 31, as amended above, recite the limitation whereby the path selection parameters include parameters for providing selective traffic splitting between a plurality of paths to a second platform that is configured to provide the performance enhancing functions including one or more of protocol spoofing, local data acknowledgement, data compression and encryption, and the path activation parameters include parameters for mapping the paths to physical ports of the platform. Applicants submit, however, that the cited Doviak patent fails to teach or suggest these new limitations recited in the independent claims as amended. For at least the foregoing reasons, therefore, the cited Doviak patent fails to anticipate claims 1-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein; and no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Craig Plastrik, at 301-601-7252, so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dated: 13 June 2005

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